

## SUNSET MEMORIAL

**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is September 11, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 13,016 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 13,016 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children

in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is September 11, 2008, 13,016 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

IN HONOR OF MR. PAUL WEYRICH

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Paul Weyrich for his many contributions to the cause of freedom and liberty. Mr. Weyrich is the proud son of Racine, Wisconsin—a city that I have the privilege to represent in the U.S. House of Representatives. Wisconsin has a long tradition of challenging the prevailing political sentiments, and producing intellectually-curious, reform-minded leaders. Paul Weyrich is one such leader.

As a pioneer of the modern conservative movement, Mr. Weyrich has consistently served as a vocal defender of our economic and religious freedoms. On September 10, 2008, I had the unique opportunity to show my respect and admiration at the Paul Weyrich Legacy Dinner in Washington, D.C. On behalf of those I represent in Racine, Wisconsin, I extend my gratitude to this great American.

**DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS  
PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES  
AND DESERVE FAIR COMPENSA-  
TION**

**HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good people at Woodfords Family Services and the other members of the Maine Association for Community Service Providers who have come to Washington, D.C. this week to take part in the American Network of Community Options and Resources

Governmental Activities Seminar and the "DSPs to D.C." events.

In Maine, these agencies are working with hundreds of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities. DSPs help men, women, and children with aspects of daily living, rehabilitation, training, and other tasks, seven days a week, 24 hours a day, enabling Americans with mental and physical disabilities to live and work in their communities. This highly trained, skilled, and committed workforce supports individuals in my Congressional District. The same is true throughout the State of Maine and the rest of the country.

Years ago, the Maine Legislature decided to provide residential support to its most vulnerable citizens with developmental disabilities and other special needs. This community-based system consisted of a network of private providers who had a long history of offering services to individuals with special needs through local organizations that were created just for that purpose.

Maine's decision was an historic step forward, for it allowed my State to achieve two major goals. First, the residents of Maine's only state institution for people with developmental disabilities, Pineland Center, were transferred to small, homelike settings in local communities. This resulted in the closing of the infamous Pineland facility in 1996. The second achievement was to permit people with disabilities to remain in their home communities instead of unfamiliar locations. The work of countless Direct Support Professionals was crucial to the success of Maine's initiative.

DSPs are able to help their clients not only by lending them physical support, but by building a relationship of trust. They help individuals with communication issues convey their thoughts, enable people with physical disabilities explore the world beyond their homes, and help individuals establish friendships that allow them to give as well as receive from their communities. The success of these services is the direct result of the personal relationships that DSPs build with their clients.

Thanks to the care and support of skilled DSPs, the quality of life of many Americans with special needs has improved significantly. However, this progress is threatened by expanding need and shrinking resources. In particular, we now face a critical DSP workforce shortage because, as the cost of living rises, the low wages associated with this career are driving employees out of the field.

Despite today's high unemployment rate, members of the Maine Association for Community Service Providers struggle every day to hire and retain quality staff to work as DSPs in their residential facilities. To reverse this trend, many providers across the nation support H.R. 1279, the Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act of 2007, introduced by Representative LOIS CAPPS (D-CA). This measure would provide states with funds to increase the wages paid to DSPs who provide services to individuals with disabilities under the Medicaid program.

It is time to recognize the dedication, commitment, and sacrifices DSPs make to ensure the safety and well-being of the people they serve, providing a critical safety net for our disabled citizens. This care is often physically and emotionally demanding. DSPs deserve fair compensation. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the bipartisan Direct Support Professionals Fairness